

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3563

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: TAIPEI 7049

1. SUMMARY: KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING ENDED
NOV. 27 WITH MANIFESTO WHICH BROKE NO NEW GROUND AND
RE-ELECTION OF ENTIRE CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE.
LATTER APPEARS TO INDICATE NO CABINET CHANGES IN NEAR FUTURE.
END SUMMARY

2. KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING NOV 24-27 OFFERED
NO SURPRISES AND BROKE NO NEW GROUND APPARENTLY CON-
FIRMING PRE-MEETING RUMORS THAT MAIN PURPOSE WAS
TO HONOR 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF KMT. IN
CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR WHEN PRESIDENT APPEARED IN A
PHOTO INSTRUCTING THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM BEFORE
THE MEETING, AND EXCEPT FOR WRITTEN MESSAGE AND OBLIGA-
TORY REFERENCES TO HIM AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL, LITTLE
EFFORT WAS MADE TO EMPHASIZE CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S
INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

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3. IN CONTRAST WITH LAST YEAR, WHEN PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO WAS CLEARLY THE ONLY DOMINANT FIGURE, CCK THIS YEAR MAINTAINED A MUCH LOWER PROFILE. HIS INITIAL REPORT AT THIS YEAR'S MEETING WAS ONE OF TWO KEYNOTE ADDRESSES, BUT HIS PRESENCE OTHERWISE WAS NOT GIVEN GREAT EMPHASIS AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OFTEN APPEARED WITH HIM AND IN A MORE SENIOR POSITION.

4. MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK APPEARED AT MEETINGS AND IN NEWS REPORTS MORE PROMINENTLY THIS YEAR THAN IN THE RECENT PAST. SHE ALSO RECEIVED CHUNGSHAN MEDAL (PARTY'S HIGHEST HONOR) IN RECOGNITION OF HER "OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES AND CHARITY ENTERPRISES."

5. EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY MANIFESTO BROKE NO NEW GROUND AND STRIKES US AS THE USUAL BOILER PLATE--THE STRUGGLE OF THE PARTY, ITS ULTIMATE VICTORY, NECESSITY OF STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNISM, CRITICISM OF DETENTE AND (INFERENTIALLY) US-PRC NORMALIZATION. IT ALSO ECHOED THE EARLIER ANTI-FOREIGN THEMES REPORTED REFTEL.

6. IN WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MORE STARTLING SIDELIGHTS ON THE MEETING, WE HAVE HEARD THAT LIANG HAN-TS'AO, AN AGING KMT STALWART, ADDRESSED A PLENARY SESSION SAYING "WE ARE OPPOSED TO MAOISM BUT NOT COMMUNISM" SNCE THE THREE PEOPLE'S PRINCIPLES ARE AFTER ALL A FORM OF SOCIALISM AND THXAT "WE SHOULD NOT OPPOSE THE COMMUNIST NATIONS." AT THAT POINT, KU CHENG-KANG (HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE) REPORTEDLY OUSTED MR. LIANG FROM XTHE ROSTRUM AND ADJOURNED THE MEETING. WHEN THE MEETING RESUMED, PARTY SEC.GEN, CHANG PAO-SHU REPORTEDLY TOLD THE DELEGATES TO IGNORE THE PREVIOUS REMARKS.

7. COMMENT: THE MEETING APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE

SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND CELEBRATING THE KMT ANNIVERSARY. THE COMMITTEE SIMPLY PUT THE PARTY'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPRIMATUR ON ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN IN ITS NAME BY THE CCK GOVERNMENT--FURTHER EMPHASIZING ITS DECLINING ROLE AS A POLICY-MAKING OR DELIBERATING BODY. THE PREMIER'S PUBLIC DEFERENCE WAS PROBABLY IN PART AN EFFORT BY HIM NOT TO TAKE THE LIMELIGHT AWAY FROM THE PARTY, PERHAPS IN RECOMPENSE FOR ITS LACK OF DECISION-MAKING POWER. UNGER

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